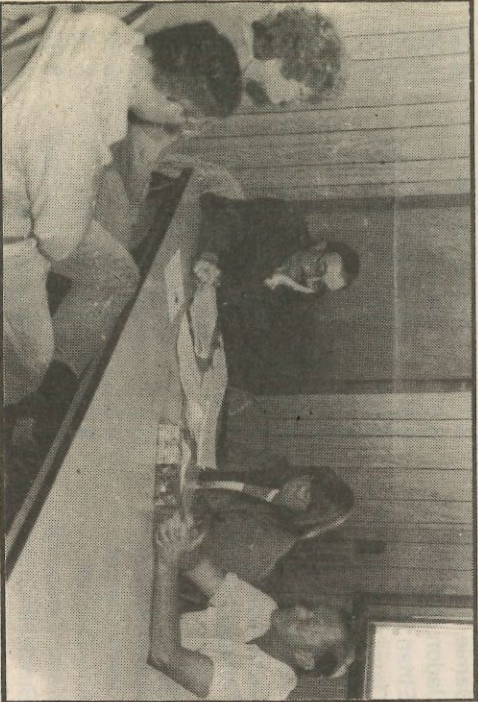


Summerville passes 1997 - 1998 budget



The Summerville City Council and budget committee ponder next year's priorities.

by Ron Brand

A \$3,133 increase in the Street Fund is the only substantial change in the new budget the City of Summerville is proposing for 1997-1998.

Divided into General Fund, a Street Fund and a Building Improvement Fund, the new budget totals \$58,071 compared to this year's \$54,804.

The City budget committee met one time to discuss the document presented by City Recorder Louanne McDonald. With only minor changes it was approved on May 20.

The Budget Hearing is Scheduled for June 23 at 7:00 p.m. and city residents will have the opportunity to give input at this time.

The total taxes levied under the new budget would increase slightly, from \$1,228 in 1996-97 to \$1,302 next year.

With the passage of Ballot Measure 50 altering Measure 47's mandate to roll back tax levels, McDonald reported that it was impossible to determine what will finally be put into law. The state legislature is still discussing how to implement Ballot Measure 50.

"Until they get done fooling around with it, it's hard to make a call," McDonald said.

The \$1,302 tax levy represents only 2.24% of Summerville's total budget.

Ron Caswell, who manages public works for the city, said he'd like to use the extra street funds to make needed improvements on road shoulders and cul-de-sacs funds to be used for this would come from a \$19,600 cash carryover. The City has added to this over the last several years to cover the cost of future repairs.

There is a \$15,859 cash carry over in the Building Improvement Fund that is reserved for future expenditures. Summerville Mayor Cecil McDonald said, at the May 20 meeting that a new roof the City Hall will be needed within the next year.

New General Fund resources and expenditures were virtually unchanged in the new budget. \$600 was budgeted for next year to cover the cost of dumpsters needed for two city clean up days.

Last week, Masters, having flown out to Union County, enjoys a friendly dinner at the Wrangler Restaurant with Sheriff Robinson. They soon get down to business, her concern over her old friend, Bob McNeil. While the two are driving out to McNeil's, Robinson calls Brandi Jo and learns that Lesli Terry has been found and is asking for protection from Commissioner McNeil.

Part six by Rip Tyde

Bob McNeil could see the headlights of a vehicle coming up the long, one-lane gravel road to his Cricket Flat ranch house. "Now what?", he thought. "I am not expecting anybody out here tonight." An exasperated expletive escaped his lips as he recognized Craig Robinson's 4-wheel drive pulling up to the front verandah. "That son-of-a-gun will just not take no for an answer!" His anger changed to surprise and a sense of relief as he saw Joyce Masters getting out on the passenger side. "Well, long time no see there little girl, how have you been?" he exclaimed while giving her a strong hug.

"I've been fine," she said, "and it's good to see you too." As they stood smiling at each other, they suddenly realized that Robinson was regarding them with a bemused grin and shuffling his feet. "Let's go inside," McNeil offered, "and you can tell me why you are out here tonight with this broken-down sheriff who is supposed to be taking it easy."

After they were seated in comfortable leather chairs in McNeil's beamed-ceiling living room, Joyce fixed a steady, serious gaze on him and began to speak. "Bob, you called me out here to see if I could be of some help to you in this bizarre case. I am willing to do anything I can for you because you are a very special person to me, but we have to get some things cleared up first." McNeil looked at her quizzically but said nothing. She continued, "Lesli Terry is being held in protective custody at

Craig's office right now. She is asking for protection and says she doesn't want to have to talk to you under any circumstances." Masters stood up and paced a few steps back and forth in front of her chair then looked at McNeil. In a slightly strained voice she queried, "Bob you have to level with me on this. Why is she afraid of you?"

McNeil sat still and looked toward the ceiling for what seemed like an eternity. He looked at Masters and then at Robinson. In a steady, professional, FBI agent tone he said, "I was not expecting to have you in on this Craig, but you are so right. Now I need your solemn oath that this information is between us three, OK?"

Robinson nodded in agreement. McNeil continued, "Joyce my retirement was not forced because of any dependence on pain killers or anything else. It was to set up a deception that enabled me to infiltrate an organized criminal operation. The back injury was real and that helped sell the package."

With confused looks apparent on both Robinson and Masters faces, the Commissioner went on. "The reason that Lesli is afraid of me is that she thinks I am a secret associate of her brother-in-law Paul. She thinks I am an FBI agent gone bad, and that I pose a danger to her safety," he explained. "Lesli knows about the high-powered computers, document scanners and color laser printers that Paul and his two friends brought to Terryville—she just doesn't know what they were doing with them," he concluded.

The Commissioner's dilemma Serial Murder Mystery In 10 Parts

Second Notice of Budget Hearing

A public hearing on a proposed budget for Elgin Rural Fire Protection District, Union County, State of Oregon, for the fiscal year July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998, will be held at 2 N. 8th Ave. The hearing will take place on the 23 day of June, 1997, at 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the budget with interested persons. The first Notice of Budget Hearing and Financial Summary was published in The Elgin Recorder on June 3, 1997. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained at 2 N. 8th Ave., between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Governing Body Chairperson: Bob Crouser, May 30, 1997.

CITY OF ELGIN: SECOND NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing of the Elgin City Council on the proposed budget of the City of Elgin for the fiscal year July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998, will be held at 260 N. 10th, the Elgin Community Center. The meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 1997 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the budget with interested persons. Any person may appear at the hearing to discuss the proposed programs with the Council.

The first Notice of Budget Hearing and Financial Summary was published in the Elgin Recorder June 3, 1997. A copy of the proposed budget may be examined or obtained at the City Hall from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

At this meeting the Council will also pass resolutions adopting the budget, appropriating funds and levying taxes.

Rick Smith, Mayor City of Elgin

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